

Sedalia Weekly Conservator.

SEDALIA, MO., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1907.

NO. 35

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THE CONSERVATOR.

121 E. Main St., Sedalia, Mo.

In Missouri a "Jim Crow" State

The Associated Press during the past week, chronicles the news that a committee of the

House has decided to make a favorable recommendation to that body of a Bill that will provide for the establishment and maintenance of "Jim Crow Cars" upon all lines transporting passengers in this state. When we

read of such action on the part of certain lawmakers of this commonwealth, we immediately asked ourselves this question:—"Is Missouri Really a 'Jim Crow' State?"

If she is, why has she become decadent? Judged from her geographical location, the composition of her population, a study of history and early traditions, we cannot find sufficient grounds upon or from which our legislative fathers can erect a "Jim Crow" structure.

From her geographical location, Missouri is not a Southern State. She has never been heretofore accounted as such. Her southern boundary has, since the early the early "Twenties" marked the Northern limits of the Solid South. We cannot believe that our beloved state is willing to be counted among the less progressive of our sisterhood of states.

By a careful analysis of her population, we find no element among us that deserves so great an honor as to be set apart from all others just for the purpose of travel. Ours is a cosmopolitan state in the make up of its population. No one element is sufficiently strong to menace the rapid advancement of the whites in this state. No danger lurks in any quarters of "Negro domination." No efforts are being made for social recog-

nition. In fact there is no bitter race antipathies raging in this state between the Negro and his more fortunate contemporary, the white man. Why become devotees of Jimcrowism? As a Negro we grant that there are some bad and incorrigible ones among us. But we refuse to submit to the accusation that all of us are bad and worthless. Does not the Irish, the German, the Italian, the Swede, the Chinese, the Pole, the Jew, the French and every other racial element that enters into the sum total of our heterogeneous population have their vagabonds, criminals and irresponsibles? Is it much for the Negro who felled the forests in antebellum days and has done so much to build the early civilization of this commonwealth, to ask that he be given ONE HALF the consideration allotted to aliens? It is true that we were made slaves of without our consent. But we here openly declare that we shall not be dehumanized to this level of brutes. What have we done that impels more than three millions of peoples to concentrate their efforts upon us to crush us body and soul? Is it possible that great and powerful Caucasian Missouri, nearly four millions strong, is menaced by 200,000 Negroes? Will the legislators of our great state allow a few, who are impelled by prejudice, blinder than hell, race hate,

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more powerful than plutonic fire, selfishness, more consuming than volcanic zeal, and fiendishness, more uncompromising than satanic vindictiveness, to lead them into the enactment of a law that will blacken our statutory records with an ineffaceable stigma, that means shame and a backward step never before known in our historical annals?

History of our commonwealth is laden with deeds of valor and chivalry. Laclede, the Indian Pontiac, Boone and thousands of early settlers and empire building pioneers were too manly to strike the fallen. Let the "Jim Crow" legislators cite us to historical data, where our founders dealt so unmercifully with their unfortunate. It was here in Missouri where the Indian, the Frenchman and the Englishman shared each others mutual confidence. It was here in this state where the slavemaster delighted to treat his servants with the consideration due to beings having an immortal soul. It was here

in Missouri, where secession, that principle that teaches death to Republics, was overthrown by an eighty thousand majority. Missouri has heretofore, recognized manhood in men. She has builded an excellent system of schools for the enlightenment of all—Negroes included. She has counselled "uplift" instead of "put down." Why crush the hopes that the state itself has built?

Some will that there are "bad niggers" who will trouble on trains. We answer: Hasn't this state handled "bad" white men, whenever they willad to subvert our laws? If it can handle white men who rob trains, wreck banks surely our civil and military authorities can handle all the "bad niggers" within its confines with out crucifying those that have characters vouched for by the best of white men. "Jimcrowism" to Missouri is as compatible to her past achievements as titles or nobility is to our national life. —Editor.

MARY C. TERRELL

Most Noted Lady Lecturer in America, of

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY, 21st, 7:30 P. M.

Testimonials:

From Sen. Dolliver of Iowa:—"She is one of the most eloquent women in America."

From "Le Temps," one of the leading newspapers of Paris, France, June, 6th, '04: The woman who made the best appearance at the convention of the International Congress of Women, which was held in Berlin, Germany, June, 1904, was Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, of Washington, "A lady of Andalusian complexion," who in case of manner, gracefulness and force of gesture and naturalness of expression was ahead of all the other oratrices. Mrs. Terrell spoke in German with the same fluency and ease as in her native tongue."

From Booker T. Washington:—"This is to say that for many years I have known Mary Church Terrell of Washington, D. C. She is a platform speaker possessed of a unique and commanding personality and will interest any audience to which she may be permitted to address herself. She speaks out of a cultured mind and quickly wins a sympathetic response from her audience. Her delivery is forceful and her expression fluent and descriptive."

"Everywhere Mrs. Terrell has appeared large audiences have greeted her. It is hoped by the management, THE STUDENTS' LECTURE BUREAU, under whose auspices she comes, that Culture Loving Negroes of Central Missouri will be present to hear this Very Eminent Negro Lady Lecturer."

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